City of Rochester

Rochester, MI

Mayor Stuart Bikson

Pledge Summary

The City of Rochester is working to create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future for our community. We have committed to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, a program that seeks to increase pollinator-friendly habitats in cities nationwide. We are taking steps to increase the number of pollinator-friendly plants and trees in our city parks, as well as providing educational opportunities for our citizens to learn about the importance of protecting pollinators. We are also working with our local schools to encourage the planting of pollinator-friendly plants in their gardens. Additionally, we are actively working to reduce the use of harmful pesticides, which are known to be detrimental to the Monarch Butterfly population. Finally, we are actively partnering with local organizations and businesses to restore and protect important Monarch Butterfly habitats in our city.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create

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monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Debbie Jones	2026	2/28/2026	
Mayor Nancy Salvia	2025	2/28/2025	Monarch Champions
Mayor Stuart Bikson	2024	2/18/2024	Monarch Champions
Mayor Stuart Bikson	2023	2/17/2023	Monarch Champions
Mayor Stuart Bikson	2022	1/18/2022	Monarch Champions

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Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

8000

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

2000 Youth and 6000 Adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.25

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

Local Schools, Public Parks, Main St. planters, lots adjacent to parks and city buildings, common lands in HOAs, private gardens, civic areas like the Fire Dept and Public Library, vacant and landlocked lots in the City

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

Rochester Pollinators engages with the Detroit Children's Center's through the "Adopt a Garden" program. We designed, planted and continue to tend a Native Pollinator Garden there that provides a setting for the children and families who come to the Center for assistance to encounter and learn about pollinators and butterflies and their life cycles (including Monarchs) and the importance of native plants. Within the garden there is signage designating it as a Pollinator Garden that includes a QR code to www.rochesterpollinators.org for access to pollinator education resources.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

A desire to contribute to the survival of the threatened Monarch Butterfly and to engage in ecological restoration in our city through public and private native plantings, including shrubs and trees, and removing invasives, were our initial and continuing motivations for engaging with the NWF-Mayors Monarch Pledge (MMP). A committee of the Rochester City Beautiful Commission formed, called the Rochester Pollinators that has taken on the

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management of this work within our city. The Rochester Pollinators is a thriving community group with more than 160 volunteers. Our influence extends beyond volunteer participation, as we've garnered over 2,200 followers on social media and built a substantial readership with 1,400 subscribers to our newsletter. In addition to on-the-ground work and championing the cause and initiatives outlined in the MMP, we are focused on uniting individuals in our shared commitment to pollinator conservation and on outreach by offering our assistance to other communities in our local area in becoming involved in the MMP and ecological restoration.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The action items that are part of the NWF-MMP highlight opportunties to pursue that contribute to restoration of the Monarch and support for other essential invertebrates in our ecosystem. The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester has provided some funding for additional plantings. We have developed a variety of resources, including numerous garden plans that anyone can access. Going forward, it would be helpful to us if the NWF offered an outline and resources for planning an event surrounding the Monarch Butterfly in our city.

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

The City of Rochester is committed to engaging in ecological restoration, one native garden at a time in the city. The acreage estimates in this report do not reflect the ever-increasing number of native gardens, that include milkweeds, that are being tended in neighborhoods all over Rochester and the Greater Rochester Area of Rochester Hills, Oakland Hills and Shelby Township, as a result of native plant sales and giveaways, and the educational efforts and support provided by the Rochester Pollinators. Free milkweed is routinely distributed at various events like educational presentations and community events and festivals. In 2023 there was a notable surge in participation during our spring and fall native plant sales: nearly a 50% increase in sales! In addition, we are committed to mentoring others outside of our city and immediate area, and have done so, in many neighboring communities to support their initiatives for beginning and sustaining this restorative work. In 2023, we took our advocacy to the State level when the founder of Rochester Pollinators traveled to the Michigan State Legislature in October to testify before the House Agriculture Committee regarding HB 4758, a Bill to remove Milkweed from the noxious weeds list at the statewide level. Since then, HB 4758 passed the House and is headed to the Michigan Senate. We will continue to remain focused on Systemic Change in our ongoing work within and outside of our community.

Selected Action Items

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Rochester Pollinators Committee of the Rochester City Beautiful Commission; Rochester DPW and Parks

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

NWF Mayors Monarch Pledge https://www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchportal; NWF Wildlife Habitat (ongoing and approved by NWF in 2022) https://www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat; Tree City USA (Arbor Day Foundation) https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

January 31, 2023

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayors Monarch Pledge (see complete text at the link below)

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge.docx

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RochesterPollinators_Logo-01.png

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Garden Plans 2023.pdf

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Butterfly_Brochure_Print.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Pollinator Brunch_Rack_Card.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Stratification Brochure.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RoseMilkweed.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

ButterflyMilkweed.jpg

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

The Rochester Pollinator Committee (https://rochesterpollinators.org/) of the Rochester City Beautiful Commission functions as a communications, education and advocacy group for pollinators and native plantings, including the Monarch Butterfly and milkweeds. This includes: -Newsletter published 1 or 2 times/month with over 1400 subscribers, featuring themes such as “Healthy Yards for People, Pollinators and Pets,” Local “Pollinator Heros” who are doing great things to help the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators, Native Plant Sales and upcoming events that support the mission. Example: https://mailchi.mp/99db84fb3e8b/mmp-champion-city-6033979?e=[UNIQID] -Volunteer newsletter that goes out 1 or 2 times/month; 153 active subcribers. Example: https://mailchi.mp/69f81571f866/volunteer-gardening-fall-23-plant-sale-6216647?e=[UNIQID] -Social media posts (Facebook page (2,200+ followers), Facebook groups page (526 members), Instagram (1,021 followers) -Dedicated page on the City of Rochester, MI website: (https://rochestermi.org/517/Rochester-Pollinators-Committee) -Rochester Pollinator Website (rochester pollinators.org). -Printed brochure with mission statement and native plant garden design information -Stratification & winter sowing brochures -Michigan Native Plant Garden Guide (13 pages) -12 informative public presentations given in 2023 (presentation example attached).

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Spring Clean Up - Not So Fast SAMPLE Draft.png

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

AE8D7F1E-E81A-4B3C-AB97-9B6BA1D19689.jpeg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Rochester Pollinators works with local garden clubs and has helped to complete several public demonstrations gardens and has presented on why milkweed and other native plants are necessary for Monarchs and other pollinators. Examples in 2023 include: "Spring Clean-up, Not So Fast!" at Shelby Garden Club (02/09/23); "Rochester Pollinators Monarch Workshop/Presentation at Dutton Farm Day Program for adults with disabilities (03/16/23); "Healthy Landscapes for Pollinators and People" at Rochester Hills Public Library (05/11/23); "Discover the Beauty and Benefits of Native Plants" at Southern Michigan Day Lily Group, 6/10/23; "Healthy Landscapes for Pollinators and People" at Blakes Farm Lavender Fest '23 (07/14/23)

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2021 Butterfly Garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Planting3_10262023.jpg

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How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Rochester Pollinators; City Beautiful Commission (CBC); City of Rochester Parks and Rec; Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC), Community Foundation of Greater Rochester (CFGR)

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

1. Rochester Pollinators continues to provide native shrubs and nectar plants, including milkweeds, for planting in the City's public native pollinator/butterfly gardens in the park and along the riverbank. (see photo of Monarch on Asclepius incarnata at the Rochester Municipal Park Butterfly Garden) 2. CRWC and Rochester Pollinators received a grant of $1000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester for the native restoration of a Wet Meadow ecosystem and educational signage adjacent to the Rochester Municipal Park. The area was replanted with native seed mix and perennial Joe Pye plugs in late October, 2023 (see photo of planting area). Several native Button Bush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) were also added. The mix includes native nectar plants suitable for the Wet Meadow habitat including Asclepius incarnata. This area will not be mowed.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Southern Mi Day Lily Group photo(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Shelby Garden Club(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Amber-Monarch Slide(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Southern Michigan Day Lily Society(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Wet Meadow Enhancement %22Before%22 Chris Bobryck.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Wet Meadow Planting3_10262023.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Lizzy-Burgess-Invasives(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Burg-Shad Nat Ctr invasive removal plot.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Lizzy Schultz w:Poll Garden 2023.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

DAR Attendees.JPEG

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

1. City of Rochester Dept. of Public Works, Parks (DPW-Parks) 2. Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) 3. Community Foundation of Greater Rochester (CFGR) 4. Rochester Pollinators (RP) 5. Southern Day Lily Society & Shelby Garden Club 6. Master Gardeners: Shelley Brown and Kay Renney (active participants in Rochester Pollinators) 7. Lizzy Schultz, Coordinator, Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center 8. Stoney Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution after the ceremony to install the monument to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and adjacent native planting at Mount Avon Cemetery

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

1. Rochester DPW-Parks, CRWC & Rochester Pollinators are collaborating on a "Wet Meadow Restoration Project" adjacent to the Rochester Municipal Park; Asclepius incarnata for Monarchs is included in plantings; Educational signage will be installed; Project is funded through a CFGR grant of $1000 2. RP gave presentations at the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center about the importance of milkweed in the landscape to the Southern Day Lily Society over 70 milkweed plants were given away. 3. RP gave presentations at the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center about the importance of milkweed in the landscape to the Shelby Garden Club and gave away numerous miolkweed plants to

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the attendees to plant. 4. Lizzy Schultz, Coordinator of the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, collaborated with Rochester Pollinators on a plan to remove invasive Japanese barberry and plant more pollinator plants, including milkweed for monarchs on the grounds of the nature center. The result was three pollinator/butterfly gardens on the grounds of the nature center, planted in Summer of 2023. 5. Master Gardeners Shelley Brown and Kay Renney are working directly with Rochester DPW to plant more milkweeds and other natives on public lands in Rochester. 6. The Stoney Creek Chapter of the DAR has gotten involved in both generally volunteering with Rochester Pollinators and specifically working on planting and maintaining a public native pollinator garden at the Mount Avon Cemetery's Mausoleum, and also a planting adjacent to a small monument to honor the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Rochester Pollinators' founder, Marilyn Trent is a member of that chapter and invited the involvement of her Sisters, who have enthusiastically engaged as volunteers.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Oak Brook Condos 1.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Oak Brook Condos 2.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Oak Brook Condos 3.jpg

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

-Vintage Estates HOA, Rochester Hills, MI -Oakbrook Ridge Condos -Rochester Pollinators

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions implemented for mowing and maintenance programs.

-Vintage Estates: Rochester Pollinators has served in an advisory role since July '23, when members sought help in replanting an area with native plants for pollinators after they

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removed invasive autumn olive from a large tract of land that bounds the woods. The first wave of plantings took place in September '23 with volunteer help and more will go in Spring 2024. Oakbrook Ridge Condos, Report from coordinators: "Starting in Spring 2023, sites were identified in each of our 3 developments for the establishment of pollinator friendly plantings. An additional area in Ridge had been planted with several shrubs in the summer of 2022 and a variety of Asclepias syriaca and tuberosa, Echinacea, Black eyed Susan, New England aster, agastache and Coreopsis have been added over the past year. In May of 2023, the Oakbrook Board authorized moneys to purchase seedlings from Wild type Farms and those were planted at the entrances of Oakbrook Ridge and Oakbrook West and included a Spicebush, Button Bush, Bearberry, milkweed, Golden Alexander, yarrow, Coreopsis and a variety of others. An overgrown woodland site was identified in Oakbrook East and had to be cleared by residents. Some scavenged and donated plants have been added and winter sown seeds have been placed with protection. We anticipate this site will be well established by next summer."

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Rochester Pollinators' Marilyn Trent worked with Bart Jones of Lawn Works (and City Landscaper) to add more milkweed and other native plants to the Paint Creek Bridge Garden and the Municipal Park Butterfly Garden. She also worked with the Principal of Utica High School, Timothy Youngblood, and 80 teachers and staff to plant Milkweed plants (Asclepius tuberosa) and a variety of other natives at the High School, planting two beds: 60 feet by 4 feet & 25 feet by 4 feet.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Utica High School Group.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Principal Youngblood.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

butterfly milkweed.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Teacher with pollinator sign.jpg

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Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Pledge to Plant Milkweed.jpg

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Butterfly Wings Project: This is an ongoing project in which members of the community can pose in front of a set of Monarch Wings and hold a sign with a pledge to support Monarch butterflies and other pollinators through various actions, such as "I will plant more milkweed for the Monarch butterfly!" Their photo is taken and shared out to the larger community. We feel this builds awareness and accountability, while being fun and playful.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Rochester Pollinators Committee

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

150

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Children's Center Garden 2023.jpg

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

"Children's Pollinator Garden" at the Detroit Children's Center, 79 Alexandrine West, Detroit, MI 48201. Rochester Pollinators responded to an opportunity to "Adopt-a-Garden" at the Children's Center, then designed and planted it, and continue to tend it. The native pollinator garden provides a setting for the children and families who come to the Center for assistance to encounter and learn about pollinators and butterflies and their life cycles (including Monarchs) and the importance of native plants. Within the garden there is

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signage designating it as a Pollinator Garden that includes a QR code to www.rochesterpollinators.org for access to pollinator education resources. More about the Detroit Children's Center: "The Children’s Center is home to many specialized clinical services. We lead the way in working with children who struggle with behavioral, emotional, educational, intellectual and developmental challenges or may have experienced trauma. We treat the whole child, looking at more than a single issue so we can provide the best, most comprehensive integrated care. We examine barriers in the home, school and community, working with the family who raises them and the organizations that support them." Adrienne Polumbo, director of volunteer engagement at the Detroit Children's Center, worked with representatives from Rochester Pollinators who planned a pollinator garden on site for the children. In 2023, a volunteer from Rochester Pollinators continued to care for the garden and added more native plants to expand it. Engagement Strategy: The garden is onsite, and provides an opportunity for children and families to encounter and learn about pollinators and butterflies--including the Monarch and milkweed relationship. https://www.thechildrenscenter.com/

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Fammers Market Tables.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1. Spring 2023 native plant sale/give away (April-May): 3,064 native plants and shrubs; 2. Fall 2023 native plant sale/give away (August-September): 2,390 native plants and shrubs; Total: 5,454 plants; 3. Rochester Pollinators hosted a native seed collection event on October 22nd at Howlett Park Prairie Remnant. Participants collected for their own plantings and for the Native Seed Library housed at Dinosaur Hills Nature Center

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

495

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Downtown Rochester Farmers Market provided booth space for us for 4 weekends (5/20 & 27; 9/9 & 16) for plant sale/giveaway; 12 people came to collect native seeds during our meet-up on Oct 24, 2023 and seeds collected will be planted in a variety of gardens and donated to the Free Native Seed Library at the Dinosaur Hill Nature Center in Rochester

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RPHL 3.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2 RPHL 1.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Rochester Fire Station Garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RochMuniGarden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2021 Butterfly Garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Sign Park Butterfly Garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Cemetery Garden Plans.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Mausoleum garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Tomb of Unknown Soldier.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Dino Hill garden 23.jpg

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

1. Rochester Hills Public Library (RHPL), 500 Olde Towne Rd., Rochester, MI 48307. The RHPL Butterfly Garden (20 sq ft) contains 3 different types of milkweed to support Monarchs. After planting was completed, a garden tour was offered to the public to explain the significance of the native plants and milkweeds for Monarchs and other pollinators. 2. Rochester Fire Department, "Heroe's Point Garden", 277 E 2nd St, Rochester, MI 48307: The RFD garden (300sq ft) contains 2 types of milkweed for monarchs. 3. Rochester Municipal Park, "Butterfly Garden," 400 6th St, Rochester, MI 48307: This large garden (1200sq ft) features 2 types of milkweeds and a variety of native and nectar producing flowers. It is located near the main entrance to the park and is visited by thousands. There is a detailed informational sign at the entrance that features info about Monarch butterflies and their life cycle. 4. Historic Mount Avon Cemetery (400 6th St, Rochester, MI 48307) Mausoleum Garden and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier native planting, (approx 92 sq ft) including numerous Asclepius incarnata; 5. Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve Native Pollinator Garden (333 North Hill Cir., Rochester, MI 48307) more plants added 2023 (approx.200 sp ft)

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Rochester Pollinators; City Beautiful Commision, Rachel Williams; Rochester Hills Public Library, Director Juliane Moran; Rochester Fire Dept,

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.04

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Dino Hill garden 23.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

GSBrowniesMW.JPEG

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

MWseedspreadingCommGardenarea.jpeg

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.034

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

between

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Rochester Pollinators, Girl Scout Brownie Troop

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

On September 18, 2023, a group of 5 volunteers worked to tend and expand (by an additional 24sqft) the pollinator garden on a lot adjacent to the Rochester Community Garden at Scott St. near the Rochester Department of Public Works (see map image in attachments) Monarch habitat was increased by planting more milkweed both in the existing garden space and in the expansion. Moreover, the entire native garden with Monarch habitat will be connected to the Sugar Maple Grove that was planted in autumn 2022. That greenway will be completed in 2024. In November, a local Girl Scout Brownie Troop broadcast Milkweed seeds thoughout a vacant lot adjacent to the Rochester Community Garden (See area circled in red on the arial image above).

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Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.002

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Weeded and watered as needed

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

On going plantings, including milkweed along on Main Street in Rochester (see photo taken by a resident on Aug 12, 2023)

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

15

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RochDPW Colin Petit & some of the RP donated plants.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Pollinator Meadow Planting at OHFG.jpeg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Dino Hill Garden exp.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Mausoleum garden.jpg

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What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

City of Rochester DPW & Parks; Rochester Pollinators; Clinton River Watershed Council; Community Foundation of Greater Rochester; Mount Avon Cemetery

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

150

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

New plantings: Wet Meadow Restoration, adjacent to Rochester Municipal Park; Mount Avon Cemetery Mausoleum Garden Additional plantings in established public gardens: Dinosaur Hill Pollinator Garden expansion; native shrubs and plants given to DPW to add to the Municipal Park.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

1Kayak Locker '23.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2 KayaklockerTimAngela.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

3Kayaklocker'23LauraMurphy.JPG

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.25

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Ongoing practices to manage invasives at the Kayak Locker: Volunteers worked to dig & manually pull invasives out. Invasives were bagged and sent to the landfill

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Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2021 Butterfly Garden(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RPHL Garden(1)(1).jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Howlett Park info sign.jpeg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Already installed signage as of 2023: 1. Rochester Hills Public Library Sign: features a Monarch on Purple cone flower; states: "This garden contains Michigan native plants that feed, shelter and sustain our local pollinators, including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Our pollinators are crucial to the sustainability of our local ecosystem and 1/3 of our food supply." 2. Roch. Municipal Park Butterfly Garden sign Main headings (detailed info and graphics beneath): "This Garden is Saving Butterflies and Pollinators"; "4 Stages of Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle"; "Monarch Super Highway: Migrating from Mexico to the Midwest and Canada"; "Benefits of Michigan Native Plants: Robust Food Supply; Environmentally Safe and Healthy; Low Maintenance Perennials; Without Milkweed, there will be No Monarchs; and How You Can Help" 3. Howlett Park sign shows areas of native planting, offers a rationale for planting natives on public lands, details on phases of planting; history of the park In Progress: we are currently designing a sign for the Wet Meadow Restoration project adjacent to the Rochester Municipal Park. That signage will be installed in early 2024.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

marilyntrentLansingHouse.png

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What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Rep. Samantha Steckloff, 19th House District (sponsor of HB 4758)

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

We discovered that Milkweed was NEVER listed as a noxious weed and the City of Rochester is committed to making sure it will stay that way! However, Marilyn Trent of the Rochester Pollinators actively advocated with Rep. Samantha Steckloff in our State of Michigan Legislature, for the passing of HB 4857 which removes milkweed as a noxious weed at the state level. On October 4, 2023, Marilyn Trent testified in Lansing to the Michigan House Agriculture Committee on behalf of HB 4857, which will exempt milkweed from any list of noxioux weeds statewide, affecting all municipalities. Afterwards, the Bill passed from committee to the House for a vote. On November 8, 2023, the Michigan House of Representatives voted to approve this Bill! We are now waiting on the Senate vote as of the time of this documentation, but all indicators are that it will pass.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(jdd0zpf2num3zvhmippehoww))/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=2023-HB-4857

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

City of Rochester has never classified Milkweed as noxious. We are currently (as of December 1, 2023) waiting on our Michigan Senate to complete a final vote for HB 4857 which would officially exempt Milkweed from any list of noxious weeds at the state level. It is thought that it will pass.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

in progress

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Rochester-ParksRec-2024-DRAFT-2023-1020.pdf

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

RochDPW Colin Petit & some of the RP donated plants.jpg

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Rochester Department of Public Works; Rochester Parks and Recreation; Tree City USA; Rochester Pollinators

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

We have many projects that are detailed in other action items that encourage the planting of milkweeds, including milkweed plant give-aways, native gardens, plant sales that include a Monarch kit, etc. . . Our "Tree City USA" project is also ongoing in the City of Rochester to increase the number and diversity of native trees. In 2023, 50 native trees of various species were planted throughout in Rochester. The City of Rochester's Tree-Zone project offers incentives for planting new native trees, including funds to defray the costs of new trees for residents. In addition, the removal of native trees is discouraged and residents must go through an easy process with the City if they want or need to remove trees from their property. In addition, Rochester has been honored as a “Tree City” by Tree City USA for ten consecutive years! Rochester has prioritized trees in our community through the work of the Tree Committee, which is proud to report that it has met over 30% of its tree coverage goal. Work continues on the preservation of the tree canopy for future generations. In addition, the new Rochester Parks and Recreation Plan demonstrates a commitment to planting native in Rochester's public park and other areas of public property. Please see pages 23, 28, 29, 61, 72-74, 76, and 79 in the report that is linked in the attachments for specific examples. In 2023 native plants, including some Asclepius incarnata, were donated to the Wet Meadow Restoration project, and to the Rochester DPW.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Clinton River Watershed Council; Rochester Parks and Rec; Rochester Pollinators

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

In Progress

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If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

This action is an ongoing project in the City of Rochester. We do not expect that it will be "complete" anytime soon because in our view, there will continue to be a need to plant natives to support habitat restoration and healthy ecosystems in our area, and remove invasive plants. This year, in October '23 we completed the first planting of native seed mix and some perennial root stock of native plants suited for the restoration of a native wet meadow area on the edge of the municipal park. We are working directly with Clinton River Watershed Council for the restoration of a Wet Meadow area adjacent to the Rochester Park. This specific project, with educational signage, should be complete by the end of 2024, latest.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Rochester-PARKS-REC-2019-FINAL-012920.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Rochester-ParksRec-2024-DRAFT-2023-1020.pdf

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

City of Rochester City Council, Employees, Department Heads and Residents

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

Final Rochester Parks and Rec Plan, 2019, Page 159 has the native plants information which is for pollinator insects--that includes the Monarch butterfly. A new Rochester Parks plan has been drafted (attached) for 2024-2028 with numerous plans for increased plantings of native plants at nearly every park that is currently existing or planned for the near future.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2022.01.26 City of Rochester Policy regarding use of Neonicotinoids.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Rochester Pollinators City Council Presentation V2.pdf

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

March 1, 2022

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Rochester City Council, Representative Padma Kuppa, Rochester Pollinators, Marilyn Trent

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

1Utica23.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2Utica23.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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3Utica23.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

NickAmosKingswood.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

CKHSWinterSowingMW23.jpg

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Rochester Pollinators intiative to work with schools in the area to increase awareness of the needs of Monarchs and other pollinators, and to promote the planting of native milkweeds and other native plants.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Utica High School North Hill Elementary Cranbrook/Kingswood High School

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

Utica: An inservice presentation about the importance of native habitat restoration to our beneficial insects. Assistance in planting native pollinator/butterfly gardens around the perimeter of the school building; North Hill Elementary: added 2 40 sq ft native gardens to the school, teachers and student will have access; Cranbrook/Kingswood HS: science teacher Nick Ames received milkweeds from Rochester Pollinators for use in the school garden. One of his students came to an RP winter sowing workshop and planted milkweed to be added to the gardens at school

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

86 teachers; 2000 students

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

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Rochester Pollinators, school administrators and teachers

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.01

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Utica: A schedule to be administered by the school for students to water and weed the garden; North Hill: parent volunteers; Cranbrook: to be managed by the lead teacher

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

CKHSWinterSowingMW23.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

GSBrowniesMW.png

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2Howlettseedcollect23.JPEG

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

wintersowing23.jpg

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

51

What species were collected or propagated?

Collected: Asclepius incarnata, Monarda fistulosa, Echinacea purpurea, Eutrochium purpurea and maculatum; Hibiscus moscheutos, etc.; Propagated: Asclepius incarnata, tuberosa & syriaca.

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What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Rochester Pollinators

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

October 24, 2023: 12 people gathered in Howlett Park to collect native seeds for home use and for the community native seed library at the Dinosaur Hill Nature Center. November 24, 2023: Volunteers planted native milkweeds at Howlett Park to increase their presence. November 18, 2023: Local Brownie Troop (Girl Scouts) propagated seeds at some vacant land adjacent to the Rochester Community Garden, 4 adults and 12 kids. January 2023: Winter sowing workshops, 23 attendees, including kids; many sowing projects with milkweed seeds to plant at home or at school.

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